

ORATION

delivered by Ill.Kt. J.P.Wilson. G.Vice-Chamberlin, Div.High Prel. at the
Constitution and Consecration of Forum Conclave No.455 on
Wednesday, 17th. July 1998.

**BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND JOYFUL A THING IT IS;
BRETHEREN TO DWELL TO - GETHER IN UNITY.**

These words from Psalm 133 apply very much to that which we do this day. Because we, in Constituting and Consecrating this Conclave, are preparing another place where, the Brethren who will occupy this figurative dwelling, should and must if it is to succeed, dwell together in unity, the peace, harmony and love, which we earlier prayed, should be ever part of the life of this Conclave, and if that prayer which is familiar to all of us, O Lord prosper thou the work of our hands. Yea Lord prosper thou our handiwork, is to have any meaning.

The Watchwords of this Order are Faith Unity and Zeal, and very important they are to you who are about to work together in this Conclave. Because with Faith Unity and Zeal, is how you should work with each other. Faith in our Omnipotent Ruler who is the Godhead which is the Unity of Father Son and Spirit, All Knowing, Ever present and All powerful. Unity and Zeal for His Holy Work, not only here in this place, but in our daily lives through the exercise of every Masonic Virtue and Stress Virtue, because such is necessary both within these tiled walls but also outside of them.

Masonry is not a religion nor yet a substitute for the practice of religion, it does however show us a way to behave, a way of life, a guide for living, in which we are taught the virtues of a good life, to walk uprightly before God and Man so that we live respected and die lamented.

A life in which we are to walk with each other, not only with Masons but with all mankind, to walk in Faith Hope and Charity.

Faith in God and in our fellow man, Hope for the future both in this life and the next, because a man without hope is pitiful indeed and deserves our Charity, which is the most significant of Masonic Virtues.

Not the Charity of the Alms Bag or the Collecting Box or whatever but the Charity, the Love, of which Paul spoke; Yea though I speak with the tongues of Angels and have not Charity I am as a tinkling cymbal or a sounding brass; that Charity which is the mark of a true Mason, an essential element of that great law, love thy neighbour as thyself and a man who loves not his neighbour how then can he love himself as God requires

As Shakespeare wrote; To thine own-self be true, for it follows
As night follows day thou canst not be false to any man.

So that, as we go about our daily lives, we show to the world in which we live what it is to be a good man and true and what it is that distinguishes a true Mason which is perhaps,

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